

Twenty-nine years ago, Congress designated the first National Child Abuse Prevention Week in order to increase awareness and develop strategies to combat a growing epidemic. The following year became the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since that time, we have made significant strides in educating and implementing strategies to prevent child abuse. However, we are still faced with a record number of reported child abuse incidences, which can only be prevented when we all play a role in protecting our nation's children.

"Beginning in 1989, the Blue Ribbon Campaign to Prevent Child Abuse was born out of a grandmother's tribute to her grandson who died as a result of abuse. She tied a blue ribbon to the antenna on her car to celebrate his life and to bring attention to the tragedy of child abuse. Throughout April, communities across the nation will join together to renew their commitment to ending child abuse by honoring the Blue Ribbon Campaign. In addition to recognizing the daily tragedy of child abuse, it is critical that we acknowledge and celebrate those individuals, organizations, and communities who are committed to ending abuse and protecting our children. They all must be applauded for their courageous efforts.

"I will continue to be at the forefront to help ensure that children can grow up in safe homes, live happy, healthy lives and have every opportunity to succeed. I encourage every American to take an active role in preventing child abuse and neglect. I hope that this year's National Child Abuse Prevention Month inspires many others to join me in preserving and protecting the welfare of our nation's most valuable resource, our children."

For more information on how you can stop child abuse in your community, please visit:
www.ChildWelfare.gov/Preventing